



Intelligence Information Cable

WARNING NOTICE

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DIST 12 FEBRUARY 1973

COUNTRY PORTUGUESE GUINEA

DOI EARLY FEBRUARY 1973

SUBJECT DECISION ON FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF THE AFRICAN
PARTY FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA
AND THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS (PAIGC)

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1. THE DEEP AND CONTINUED RESENTMENT FELT BY BLACK MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN PARTY FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA AND THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS (PAIGC) TOWARD CAPE VERDIAN MEMBERS HAS FORCED A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SELECTING A NEW PAIGC LEADER. UNDER TERMS OF THIS COMPROMISE NO ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD TO CHOOSE A NEW LEADER UNTIL AFTER ACTUAL INDEPENDENCE IS ACHIEVED. IN THE MEANTIME, BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO MAINTAIN ARISTIDES PEREIRA AS INTERIM SECRETARY GENERAL, AND TO WAIT UNTIL INDEPENDENCE IS WON TO SELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW COUNTRY FROM AMONG THE MILITARY COMMANDERS WHO HAVE BEEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN COMBAT.

SINCE AMILCAR GABRIEL'S ASSASSINATION, THE CAPE VERDIAN ELITE OF THE PAIGC HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT BLACK RESENT-

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MENT AGAINST THEM IS SO WIDESPREAD THAT NO CAPE VERDIAN COULD BE CHOSEN AS PERMANENT LEADER OF THE PAIGC WITHOUT SPLITTING THE MOVEMENT IN TWO. THE BLACK ELEMENTS, HOWEVER, WHILE REFUSING TO ACCEPT ANOTHER CAPE VERDIAN AS SECRETARY GENERAL, ALSO REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE FEW LEGITIMATE CANDIDATES TO REPLACE CABRAL, AND THAT THEY ARE MORE DEPENDENT ON THE CAPE VERDIAN LEADERSHIP THAN THEY HAD THOUGHT. BOTH SIDES CONSIDER PEREIRA TO BE RELATIVELY "HARMLESS", SO IN THE INTERESTS OF UNITY AGAINST THE COMMON PORTUGUESE ENEMY, THIS COMPROMISE HAS BEEN EFFECTED. IN EFFECT, HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN MERELY POSTPONED BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS ARE ALSO CAPE VERDIANS.)

2. PEREIRA WILL MOVE THE ACTIVE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PAIGC FROM CONAKRY TO A LOCATION IN THE INTERIOR OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA WITHIN TWO TO THREE MONTHS. ONLY A SMALL GROUP OF PAIGC ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL WILL REMAIN PERMANENTLY IN CONAKRY.

3.

CLASSIFIED BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E.O. [REDACTED]

IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE OF AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION.

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